

August 12, 2003

MEMORANDUM TO: David L. Skeen, Acting Program Director  
Policy and Rulemaking Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

FROM: Joseph L. Birmingham, Project Manager /RA/  
Policy and Rulemaking Program  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, NRR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF AUGUST 4, 2003, MEETING WITH NUCLEAR ENERGY  
INSTITUTE (NEI) ON MANAGEMENT OF MATERIALS ISSUES

On August 4, 2003, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff met with representatives of the Nuclear Energy Institute and industry in a public meeting at NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. At this meeting, industry presented a planned program to achieve an integrated approach for management of materials issues. Meeting attendees are listed in Attachment 1. The viewgraphs presented at the meeting are in Attachment 2, (ADAMS Accession Number ML032190053).

NRC began the meeting with introductions and a statement that the purpose of the meeting was to provide NEI and industry an opportunity to present information regarding an industry plan for a program for integrated management of materials issues. Alex Marion, of NEI, gave a brief overview of the program then Garry Randolph, of Ameren UE, presented the program details.

As background, Mr. Randolph reviewed a series of recent materials events and the variety of industry organizations and resources that were used to address those issues. He said industry did a self-assessment of how industry handled the issues and determined that there was no coordinated approach to materials issues. Based on the self-assessment, industry and NEI developed an initiative by which industry committed to achieve safe, reliable, and efficient management of materials issues through coordination of efforts. The initiative was established under the NEI Nuclear Strategic Issues Advisory Committee (NSIAC). Details of the initiative are documented in NEI 03-08, "Guideline for the Management of Materials Issues," (ADAMS Accession Number ML032190048). The initiative becomes effective January 2004.

NEI 03-08 establishes two standing committees, an executive oversight committee, and a technical advisory committee. These committees are responsible to oversee the implementation of the program. The guideline also establishes policy and defines the roles, responsibilities, and expectations for the members. The initiative commits the members to supporting the implementation of the guideline including the necessary financial support. The intent is to integrate the various efforts ongoing to resolve materials issues, to proactively review industry information to identify emerging materials issues, and to efficiently resolve issues. Additional details of the program are in NEI 03-08.

In response to questions from the NRC staff, industry stated that a portion of the funds will be dedicated to an effort to identify potential materials issues on an ongoing basis. Regarding regulatory interface, industry agreed that the program could provide information on emerging issues that might support regulatory actions and make the regulatory response more

appropriate. Industry said that the program would integrate sources of issue identification including the owners and NSSS vendor groups, NEI, NRC, as well as domestic and international sources of operating experience.

The NRC asked additional questions about levels of contact and how the staff should continue ongoing work. NEI said that it would act as an interface for NRC to contact either the executive or technical committee and that the staff should continue its normal contacts for other industry groups. In general, the staff agreed that the industry initiative was an appropriate and positive approach for managing materials issues.

Industry also provided information on bottom mounted instrumentation inspection. The Materials Reliability Program had issued a letter dated June 23, 2003, (ADAMS Accession Number ML031920395) recommending that all plants perform a bare metal visual inspection of any Alloy 600 bottom mounted penetrations during the current or next refueling outage. Currently, 22 plants had performed some degree of inspection and found no indications of nozzle leakage. Industry indicated that all plants have committed to perform bare metal visual inspection within two years. Dan Horner, of McGraw Hill, asked questions regarding the bare metal inspections and also regarding regulatory action such as a generic communication. The staff indicated that a generic communication was expected to be issued by mid-August and that a meeting was scheduled for August 19 to discuss generic responses associated with leakage outside of reactor pressure vessel lower head penetrations.

Having completed the discussion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Project No. 689

Attachments: As stated

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**List of Attendees for August 4, 2003 Meeting with  
Nuclear Energy Institute and Industry on Managing Materials Issues**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
Garry L. Randolph	Ameren UE
Alex Marion	NEI
Jim Riley	NEI
Brian Sheron	NRC\NRR\ADPT
Rich Barrett	NRC\NRR\DE
Michael Mayfield	NRC\RES
Joe Muscara	NRC\RES
Nilesh Choksi	NRC\RES
Robert Davis	NRC\NRR\EMCB
Terence Chan	NRC\NRR\EMCB
Ken Karwoski	NRC\NRR\EMCB
Stephanie Coffin	NRC\NRR\EMCB
Joseph Birmingham	NRC\NRR\RPRP
Dan Horner	McGraw Hill
Deann Raleigh	LIS SCIENTECH
*John Crane	Westinghouse
*Nancy Chapman	SERCH\Bechtel

\* via telecom

cc:

Mr. Alex Marion, Director  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
am@nei.org

Mr. Jim Riley, Sr. Project Mgr.  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
am@nei.org

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